

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received NOV 25 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George Hanson Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and/or common Selmer Hanson Barn

2. Location

S of Leona

street & number SW $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$, S29, T3S, R19E

not for publication

city, town Leona

X vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Doniphan

code 43

3. Classification

Category

___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership

___ public
X private
___ both

Public Acquisition

N/A in process
N/A being considered

Status

X occupied
___ unoccupied
___ work in progress
Accessible
X yes: restricted
___ yes: unrestricted
___ no

Present Use

X agriculture
___ commercial
___ educational
___ entertainment
___ government
___ industrial
___ military
___ museum
___ park
___ private residence
___ religious
___ scientific
___ transportation
___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alice M. Hanson, Rosemary Barrand, et al

street & number N/A

city, town Denton

X vicinity of

state Kansas 66017

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Doniphan County Courthouse

city, town Troy

state Kansas 66087

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Doniphan County Cultural
Resources Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1985

___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George Hanson Barn (ca. 1885) is located on the Alice Hanson Farm near Leona, Kansas (pop.73). The one-story, three-bay, gable entrance, board and batten barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and a wooden shingled roof. Its superstructure is supported by mortised and tenoned, post and beam construction. The barn has a north to south orientation, measuring forty feet from north to south and twenty-eight feet from east to west. The byre is built into the northern embankment.

The north gable end is comprised of a small hinged door on the west side of the ground level, two hinged shutters stand on the east side. A double leaf, hinged hay door with a hood stands in the gable peak. Three rectangular openings, now filled with cinder blocks, stand in the foundation. Two rectangular louvered vents pierce the board and batten wall of the western elevation. Rectangular openings, now filled with cinder blocks, stand in the western elevation's foundation wall. Filled openings stand in the eastern elevation's foundation, the wooden wall has no openings. A small hinged door stands in the center of the hay floor level of the southern elevation. A circular louvered vent with a five-sided star inside of it pierces the center of the southern elevation's peak. A large door space accesses the byre on the southern elevation's western side, two hinged shutters also access the byre level. The barn retains its stall and storage space arrangement. The barn is painted white.

Originally constructed as a draft animal barn, the barn is now used for hay storage. The barn maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1885

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Hanson Barn (ca. 1885) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860-1933) nomination under criterion C for its architectural significance. Constructed for George Hanson, the barn is an example of a three-bay, gable entrance, full byre, board and batten barn with a gable roof and limestone foundation. The Hanson family retains ownership of the barn.

The eighteen nominated barns share a common feature in that at least one side of each barn's foundation is embedded in an earthen bank or bluff; the majority of the barns are built into shallow banks, two of the barns are built into bluffs. These vernacular wooden and cement structures span a seventy year construction period and exhibit various masonry foundations, skeletal structures, and superstructures. The byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are an excellent example of a vernacular form of architecture which was built to take advantage of the hilly topography of the county. These barns are representative of approximately thirty byre and bluff barns identified in a 1984-1985 cultural resource survey of Doniphan County. The remaining barns are too altered and/or deteriorated to be included in this nomination. Most of the nominated barns were constructed for stock and dairy cattle and remain in active use on working farms. The relative rarity of byre and bluff barns in Doniphan County and the high degree of architectural and structural integrity maintained by the nominated barns make this thematic grouping of vernacular agricultural structures extremely significant.

Doniphan County (est. 1855) experienced a substantial population increase in the twenty years following the Civil War, with many settlers moving from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Germany. The barn building traditions brought by these settlers combined with the suitable topography contributed to the building of the byre and bluff barn type in Doniphan County. Most of the nominated barns are three-bay, center entrance, gable roof structures with limestone foundations, a full byre, a threshing floor, and a hay loft. There are groupings of period types, such as the board and batten barns with louvered vents from the 1870s and 1880s, the large, gambrel roof barns from 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, and the gradual transition from post and beam construction to plank framing. In 1891 J. D. Walters of the Kansas State Agricultural College called the byre (bank)/bluff barn an "all-purpose barn of the Kansas farmer" in an article entitled "The Barn," which was published in the Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Walters described the bank barn as follows:

It gives a warm basement for the milk cows and cattle, and an accessible second story for the draught animals—for tools, machines, harness, and grain—and a roomy attic, or loft, for hay, straw, and fodder. In many states this form is objectionable for sanitary reasons, but in the dry climate of Kansas it is preferable to any other, unless there should be an unusually moist ledge directly against or under it...The building should be located so that the basement will be partly in the ground on the north and west, and so that a low embankment, or filling, on these sides will give

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Continuation sheet 1

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access to the second story.

While the byre or bluff barn presented a practical solution for Doniphan County's rolling topography, harsh winters, and high winds, it was not the most common solution. The byre and bluff barns built between 1860 and 1933 generally cost from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and while this may have been cost effective investment, it was an expensive investment. In addition, the higher degree of skilled craftsmanship required to construct a byre or bluff barn as opposed to most barns without foundations also hindered their construction. While the byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are a sturdy survivor of a barn type built in Doniphan County between 1860 and 1933 they are not prolific, being far outnumbered by more inexpensive, rectangular wooden barns without foundations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Highland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 5	3 0 1 2 1 0	4 4 0 4 1 7 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S29, T3S, R29E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 48 x 60 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 60 feet south, 48 feet west, 60 feet north, and 48 feet east to the point of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date October 28, 1986

street & number 120 West 10th telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date October 28, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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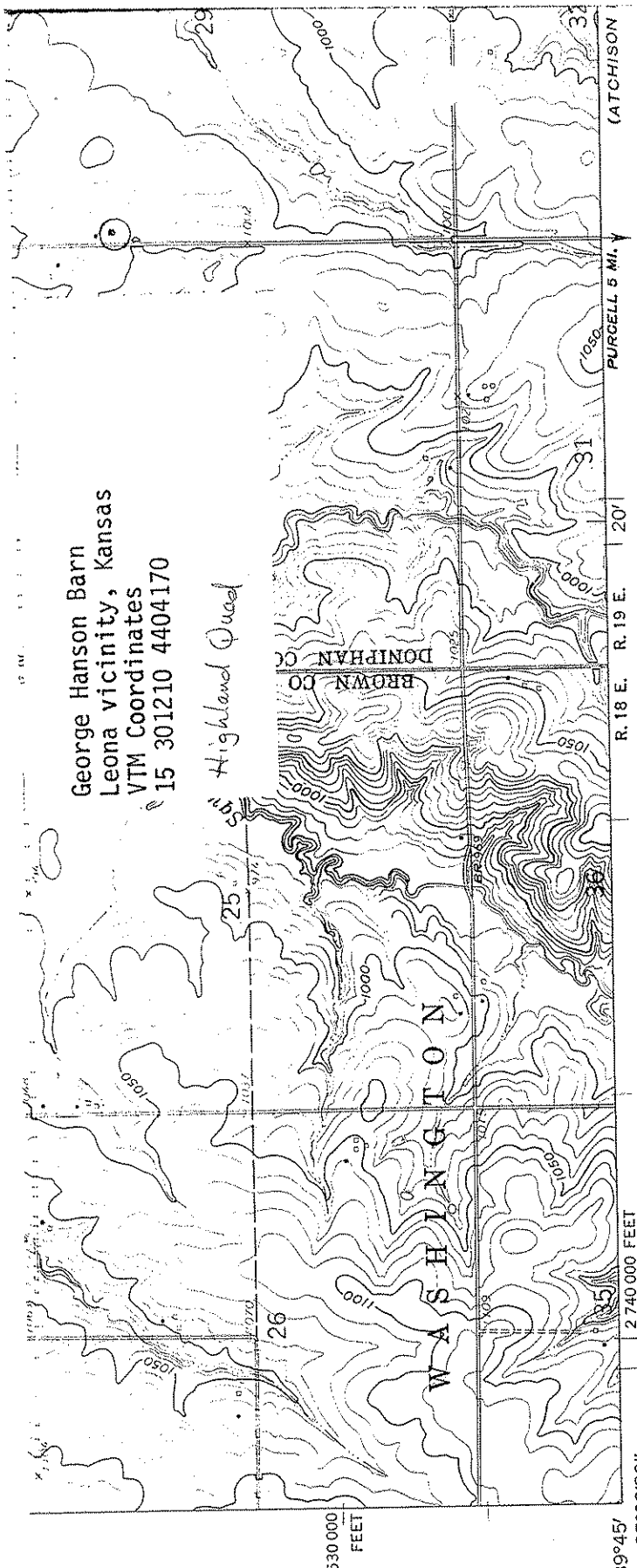
Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY—Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County

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- State of Kansas. Census, Population. 1860-1930.
- Walters, J.D. "The Barn," The Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. 31 March 1891.



39°45' 95°22'30" 2740000 FEET

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods

Aerial photographs 1957. Field check 1959

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, north zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Map of Washington, Kansas, showing contour lines, roads, and place names. The map includes a grid with coordinates 39°45' 95°22'30" and 2740000 FEET. A label 'George Hanson Barn' is present, along with 'Leona vicinity, Kansas' and 'VTM Coordinates 15 301210 4404170'. The map is titled 'Highland Quad' and shows 'WASHINGTON' and 'DONIPHAN CO'.

ATCHISON 1:125,000

SCALE 1:2

CONTOUR INTERVAL

DATUM IS MEAN

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER

AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF KANSAS

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1959

TRUE NORTH

MAGNETIC NORTH

8 1/2°

George Hanson Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
North & East elevations, SW view
1 of 4

George Hanson Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
South & West elevations, NE view
2 of 4

George Hanson Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
Byre level, South view
3 of 4

George Hanson Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
First level (threshing floor)
North view
4 of 4

